

# **Chapter 12.8**

## **Asbestos Worker and Regulated Area Air Sampling**

### **1. Air sampling objectives**

Air sampling for airborne asbestos is done to meet a variety of needs. These include ensuring the protection of employees outside any asbestos-regulated work area, ensuring asbestos-regulated-area barriers maintain their integrity, documenting the exposures to asbestos workers, and meeting OSHA compliance requirements. These needs are met through a combination of the following types of air sampling: worker exposure, random area, work area, indoor ambient air, barrier, and clearance air sampling.

Perform air sampling and analysis at various stages of asbestos-related activities specified in Part 12 to establish and document that procedures limit the spread of airborne ACM. Collect and evaluate all samples taken to meet the requirements of this chapter following the procedures specified in the OSHA Reference Method, 29 CFR 1926.1101, Appendix A; NIOSH Method 7400, or NIOSH Method 7402. Conduct all sampling under the supervision of a CIH or an individual who has completed the air monitoring technician training requirements of 25 TAC 295.64(g) and who meets the requirements for licensing to perform air monitoring under 25 TAC 295.

### **2. Air sampling plans**

Every ACM abatement or removal project requires an objective review of the air sampling requirements. Project planners shall determine the number and type of samples during the preparation of the work plan in consultation with the OHD (x36726). Each project may include the following air sampling requirements:

- a. Pre-job air sampling (background ambient air)
- b. During-the-job air sampling (worker or personal, work area, barrier integrity)
- c. Post-job air sampling (clearance)

Air sampling shall be conducted for any Class I and Class II asbestos abatement activity using critical barriers, and may be conducted for other asbestos-related activities listed in Part 12. The OHD will establish and conduct random or periodic sampling of routine Class III and Class IV asbestos work activities. The OHD is responsible for determining the effectiveness of control procedures identified in Part 12 by periodically air sampling work activities.

### **3. Worker exposure air sampling**

To determine worker exposure to asbestos, you shall:

- a. Determine employee exposures from breathing zone air samples that are representative of the 8-hour TWA as well as the 30-minute TWA short-term excursion limit of each

## Part 12, Asbestos Control Requirements

employee. Take breathing zone samples by attaching a sample collection device, generally a filter cassette, to the front collar of the worker's uniform.

- b. If you are a contractor performing asbestos Class I and Class II work, you shall conduct worker exposure air sampling on your employees as required by 29 CFR 1926.1101. Provide copies of your sampling results to the OHD, who may also perform air sampling on contractor employees as a "spot check" of the contractor's procedures. The OHD will provide copies of its results to the asbestos work contractor.
- c. The OHD has a database of worker exposure air sampling for most of the Class III and Class IV asbestos activities. This database indicates that employees performing activities following the Class III and Class IV procedures in Part 12 shall have exposures less than the OSHA PEL of 0.1 f/cc of air. Any on-site or off-site contractors performing asbestos-related work may use the OHD database to meet the "initial exposure assessment" and "negative exposure assessment" requirements of either 29 CFR 1910.1001 or 29 CFR 1926.1101. The OHD periodically performs additional worker air sampling of Class III and Class IV activities to maintain and update its database, and will provide copies of results to the employer or supervisor of the monitored employee.
- d. If you are an on-site contractor performing Class III or Class IV work at JSC, you're encouraged to perform your own personnel air sampling. If you do so, you shall provide copies of your sampling results to the OHD. If you're an off-site contractor performing Class III asbestos-related work at JSC, conduct worker exposure air sampling on your employees as required by 29 CFR 1926.1101, and provide copies of sampling results to the OHD.
- e. Notify the employee(s) affected by air sampling results individually, as outlined in the current applicable OSHA regulation. Maintain a copy of each individual's air sampling results per OSHA Recordkeeping Requirements (29 CFR 1910.20, 29 CFR 1910.1001, 29 CFR 1926.1101).

### 4. Background and other ambient air sampling

The OHD will conduct:

- a. Background ambient air sampling in buildings prior to any Class I or Class II asbestos abatement project where critical barriers and enclosures are to be erected. The OHD will conduct background ambient air sampling prior to any other project that may disturb spray-on asbestos insulation and has the potential to affect any building's ambient conditions; e.g., roofing projects.
- b. Building ambient air sampling during any project that may disturb spray-on asbestos insulation and has the potential to affect any building's ambient conditions; e.g., roofing projects. This sampling is in addition to the routine building ambient sampling discussed in Chapter 3, paragraph 6, of Part 12. Ambient air sampling results will be compared to the background samples and to the EPA "safe occupancy" level of 0.01 f/cc.

## **5. Regulated area barrier and containment integrity air sampling**

The following applies to sampling for integrity of barriers and containment:

- a. The OHD will conduct perimeter area surveillance during all Class I and Class II asbestos abatement projects as required by 29 CFR 1926.1101. The purpose of this surveillance is to ensure that no asbestos exposures occur in adjacent areas and that any critical barriers do not leak.
- b. The OHD may conduct periodic perimeter area surveillance of routine Class III and Class IV asbestos work to ensure that established procedures control asbestos releases.
- c. All barrier air sampling results will be compared to the EPA “safe occupancy” level of 0.01 f/cc.

## **6. Work area air sampling**

The OHD may perform air sampling inside regulated areas where critical barriers are not used, or may perform air sampling adjacent to glovebag abatement or removal activities. The purpose of this sampling is to “spot check” procedures and to ensure asbestos is being controlled.

## **7. Clearance air sampling**

To clear an asbestos job for completion:

- a. The JSC Occupational Health Officer, or his or her designee(s), and the OHD are the only parties at JSC who may declare an area safe for re-occupancy when clearance air sampling is conducted on asbestos abatement, repair, or emergency response activities. The decision will be based on the results of visual inspection and clearance air sampling.
- b. The OHD will perform clearance air sampling on all Class I and Class II asbestos abatement activities to ensure that the area is safe for re-occupancy. If enclosures or critical barriers are erected, the OHD may use aggressive sampling techniques to collect clearance air sampling air samples before the enclosures or critical barriers are disassembled. The enclosures or critical barriers shall never be disassembled until the JSC Occupational Health Officer or the OHD determines that the area is safe for re-occupancy and gives approval to disassemble the enclosures or critical barriers.
- c. The OHD may perform clearance sampling on Class III asbestos activities. The decision to perform this sampling is dependent upon the specific task and the professional judgment of the industrial hygienist regarding the potential health hazard to other building occupants. This sampling may also be performed to “spot check” procedures and to ensure asbestos is being controlled. If clearance air sampling is conducted, the regulated area shall not be disassembled, neither shall the demarcation be removed, until the JSC Occupational Health Officer or the OHD determines that the area is safe for re-occupancy.

## **Part 12, Asbestos Control Requirements**

- d. The OHD may perform clearance air sampling on emergency response asbestos cleanup activities. The decision to perform this sampling will depend on the amount of asbestos material spilled, whether a room or area was closed off, and the professional judgment of the industrial hygienist regarding the potential health hazard to other building occupants. If clearance air sampling is conducted for emergency response activities, the regulated area shall not be disassembled, neither shall the demarcation be removed, until the JSC Occupational Health Officer or the OHD determines that the area is safe for re-occupancy.
- e. All clearance air sampling results will be compared against the EPA “safe occupancy” level of 0.01 f/cc.